

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-17 (Canceled).

18. (Previously Presented) A method for improving the function of gastrointestinal tissue in a patient in need thereof, comprising the step of administering to the patient an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition comprising GLP-2 to enhance the nutritional absorption of the small intestine.

19. (Previously Presented) A method for improving the function of gastrointestinal tissue in a patient in need thereof, comprising the step of administering to the patient an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition to enhance the nutritional absorption of the small intestine, wherein said pharmaceutical composition comprises a GLP-2, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, which has the formula (SEQ ID NO. 1):

R1-(Y)m-His-Ala-Asp-Gly-Ser-Phe-Ser-Asp-Glu-Met-Asn-Thr-aa1-Leu-Asp-aa2-Leu-Ala-aa3-aa4-Asp-Phe-Ile-Asn-Trp-Leu-aa5-aa6-Thr-Lys-Ile-Thr-Asp-(X) n-R2

wherein:

aa1 is Met, Leu, Ile, Val or Cys;

aa2 is Ala, Ser, Thr, Pro, Gly, Asn, Asp, Glu or Gln;

aa3 is Ala, Ser, Thr, Pro or Gly;

aa4 is His or Arg;

aa5 is Met, Leu, Ile, Val or Cys;  
aa6 is Asn, Asp, Glu, Gln, His, Arg or Lys;  
X is His, Arg, Lys, His-His, His-Arg, His-Lys, Arg-His, Arg-Lys, Lys-His, or Lys-Lys;  
Y is one or two amino acids selected from the group consisting of His, Arg and Lys;  
m is 0 or 1;  
n is 0 or 1;  
R1 is H or an N-terminal blocking group; and  
R2 is OH or a C-terminal blocking group, wherein the GLP-2 or salt thereof is comprised of a naturally occurring GLP-2, and when aa1 is Ile, aa2 is Asn, aa3 is Ala, aa4 is Arg, aa5 is Ile, aa6 is Gln, and n is 1, then X is not Arg.

20. (Previously Presented) A method for improving the function of gastrointestinal tissue in a patient in need thereof, comprising the step of administering to the patient an effective amount of a pharmaceutical composition to enhance the nutritional absorption of the small intestine, wherein said pharmaceutical composition comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of GLP-2, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier wherein the GLP-2 has the amino acid sequence (SEQ ID NO. 2):

R1 - (Y)m-His-Ala-Asp-Gly-Ser-Phe-Ser-Asp-Glu-Met-Asn-Thr-Ile-Leu-Asp-Asn-Leu-Ala-aa3-Arg-Asp-Phe-Ile-Asn-Trp-Leu-Ile-Gin-Thr-Lys-Ile-Thr-Asp- (X) n-R2

wherein:

aa3 is Ala, Ser, Thr, Pro or Gly;

X is His, Arg, Lys, His-His, His-Arg, His-Lys, Arg-His, Arg-Lys, Lys-His, or Lys-Lys;

Y is one or two amino acids selected from the group consisting of His, Arg and Lys;

m is 0 or 1;

n is 0 or 1;

R1 is H or an N-terminal blocking group;

R2 is OH or a C-terminal blocking group; and

when aa3 is Ala and n is 1, then X is not Arg.

Claims 21-26. (Cancelled).